Paragon Last Minute Bidder

User Manual

Paragon Hi-Tech Ltd

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Introduction

Last Minute Bidder is intended for automatic in time bidding at online auction eBay™. It can be used for supervising costs of items, making rates, and to store information about the auctions.

System requirements: Windows 95,98,ME,2000,XP; Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher (eBay™ Web sites must be allowed to use cookies).

Getting Started

How to win an auction item

1. First, you should register on eBay as a user. To do this, click here.
2. Then start the program (click "Bidder" in "Start" menu of your OS) and adjust application parameters.
3. For adjustments choose "Tools / Options" in the Symbol panel and set the parameters in the options dialog. At start Bidder synchronizes the internal time with the chosen eBay site. This is necessary, if you are in another time zone than eBay. You can also synchronize the time manually by pressing the button (the Tools section in the Symbol panel) or choosing the main menu item "Tools / Synchronize time".
4. Search for interesting items on eBay. How to search is explained here.
5. To add an item of your interest to the bids list click the button in the "Bid Browser" window of the program. Also it is possible to do in Microsoft IE browser window.
6. Set the maximum price, which you can pay for the item. (For Dutch auctions also it is necessary to set the desired item quantity).
7. By pressing "OK" your item will be added to the list. It has the status (active). This means that the bid will be automatically placed at the specified (See Options dialogue section) time before the end of the auction. eBay won't place your maximum price right away, internal system of the auction uses the minimal possible increment according the auction rules.
8. All parameters of the active items are updated in the specified time interval (See Options).
9. You can also place a bid for a specific item at any time by pressing the button . But remember, if you place a bid in the last auction minute, chances are great for winning the item and pay a low price.
10. If the current price is already more than your maximal price the item will have or status and you will see a warning message.
    You can increase the maximum price, delete or set the item to the "Not active" status. It's also possible that one of your opponents will retract his bid and you can win the item without increasing the price.
11. If you want to retract the bids it is necessary to stop the active process by pressing the button .
12. After the end of the auction the item moves to the closed auctions folder. If you are winner (status) you can send a letter to the seller by pressing the button . In addition you can save the item page, including all graphic images, on your hard disk, especially if you are going to resale it.
13. Within the open auctions folder you can create subfolders to copy or add items into. Every subfolder has a special option "Win only one item in the folder". If you win one of the items in this folder, all other items will be deactivated. You can set this option with a right click on the folder and choosing "properties". But remember, the end time of every auction in the

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subfolder must differ from the end times of other auctions in the subfolder on “additional [specified] time interval before the end of the auction when Bidder starts to bid (Options / Time options)” + 15-20 seconds, otherwise Bidder won’t have time to check the winner of earlier finishing auction and deactivate other ones.

14. Before exiting save the items list in the file ("File / Save" in the menu).

'Options' Dialogue

Time Options

Start bidding in .. sec. before auction’s end - additional [specified] time interval (plus 'time, needed for connect') before the end of the auction when Bidder starts to bid. Recommendation: to set not less 30 seconds.

Refresh info on active items .. min - every [specified] minutes Bidder reloads item information from the site (works only on active items).

Disable refresh of active auctions ending more than in ... hours - you can disable refresh of active auctions ending more than in [specified] hours to decrease unwanted network traffic. You can refresh active auctions info manually at any time. Default - checkbox is set, 1 hour.

Auto time synchronization in .. hours - Bidder automatically synchronizes the internal time with the chosen eBay sity in [specified] hours
Other options:

eBay™ user ID / Password - user's eBay™ name and password (mandatory fields).

Autorun on Windows startup - launch Bidder on Windows startup.

Autosave data every ... min - Bidder automatically saves items list to autosave.dat file every [specified] minutes. After abnormal termination during the next start-up saved items list will be restored from the backup file.

Access Password to Last Minute Bidder - you can set access password to prevent strange unwanted actions with your auctions list and settings.

The access password will be asked .. minute(s) of user inactivity - at the expiration of the specified time interval of inactivity you must enter unlock password to have access to Bidder functionality.

Access password - you can set or change unlock password. To change current unlock password at first you must correctly enter the old one.

View background of auctions list as image - You can disable background image in the auctions list window.

Site Options

User can select target auction site and change CGI strings. Please do not change anything if you don't know CGI.

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E-Mail Patterns

Letter to seller:

You can specify subject and body of the e-mail to seller of the selected item. Besides, you can use some predefined variables in the subject and body:
[my_name] - your eBay™ name,
[seller_name] - seller eBay™ name,
[bid_id] and *[bid_name]* - id and name of the selected item.

Network

Local area networking or manual connection - select if your computer is connected to Internet via LAN or you will connect to Internet manually before Bidder use.

Dial-up networking connection - select if you use dial-up connection and choose used RAS connection in the list.
Additional options for dial-up networking connection:

Auto-disconnect after data transmission - Bidder will close dial-up connection after execution of the current procedure if there are no active items.

Dial-up connection establishes for .. min - additional time interval to establish connection with Internet provider via dialup connection. Default 0.

Update

Check for Updates - Bidder can check updates every startup or you can check them manually.
Update Now - you can check updates immediately.

Description of the Program Menus

There are three sets of the program menu that have been known for easy working with e-auctions:

- Menus of the Browser Window
- Menus of the Bid Window
- Common menus

Browser Window Description

You start this window by clicking on the "Bid Browser" button in the "Main" section of the Symbol panel. The window contains the following sub-menus:

- eBay™
- Browser
- Bid

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'Browser' Menu

Go back (- in toolbar, Alt+Left Arrow) - use to show previous page

Go forward (- in toolbar, Alt+Right Arrow) - use to show next page

Stop (- in toolbar, Esc) - use to stop loading current page

Refresh (- in toolbar, F5) - use to refresh current page

'eBay™' Menu

Start page (- in toolbar) - use for opening the start page of eBay™ site

Print (- in toolbar, Ctrl+P) - print current page

Exit - exit from 'eBay bidder'

'Bid' Menu

Copy item to bids list (- in toolbar) - use to add new items to items list from eBay™ item page

Favourites (- in toolbar) The favourites button in the menu panel allows you to accept categories you especially prefer in a favourites list such as Internet Explorer. This will enable you to search the categories you have already observed. At first, please find your category or article that you would prefer, then press the favourites button. As a result, a PopUp window appears which confirms your adding an object to the Favourites list.
If you would like to find an article in the Favourites now, you should simply press the "Page down symbol" on the right of the favourites button. Underneath, the list of the processed favourites will be opened. By clicking onto the needed articles, the required favourites category will be called up immediately. The options window will show you a complete review of all processed categories under Favourites.

Bids Window Description

You start this window by clicking on the "Bid Status" button in the "Main" section of the Symbol panel. The window contains the following sub-menus:

- File
- Folders
- Bids

'File' Menu

Open.. (- in toolbar, Ctrl+O) - use to open *.bid files, where bid items list was already stored

Save (- in toolbar, Ctrl+S) - use to save bid item list to *.bid

Save As.. - use to save *.bid file with another name

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Exit - exit from 'eBay Bidder'

'Folders' Menu

Add new folder (- in toolbar, when focused in left pane) - use to add new subfolders for folder 'Open auctions'

Rename folder (- in toolbar, when focused in left pane) - use to rename selected subfolder

Delete folder (- in toolbar, when focused in left pane) - use to delete selected subfolder

Properties (- in toolbar) - use to change properties of the selected subfolder

'Bids' Menu

Refresh (- in toolbar) - use to reread information for selected item from eBay

Save bid locally (- in toolbar) - use to save selected item page from eBay to your disk

Show in browser (- in toolbar) - use to show selected item in browser window

Add new bid (- in toolbar, when focused in right pane) - use to add new items to items list

Edit bid (- in toolbar, when focused in right pane) - use to rename selected item

Delete bid (- in toolbar, when focused in right pane) - use to delete selected item

Start bid (- in toolbar) - use to start bidding for selected item

Stop bid (- in toolbar) - use to stop bidding for selected item

E-mail to seller (- in toolbar) - use to send e-mail to seller of selected item

You can use Hot-keys at working with the list of active auctions:
Ins - add auction
Del - delete auction from the list
F5 - refresh info (Time left)

Common Menus

There are some menus those are used especially often:

- View
- Tools
- Help

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'View' Menu

Toolbar - show/hide toolbar
Status bar - show/hide status bar

'Tools' Menu

Synchronize time (- in toolbar) - use to synchronize time with selected eBay site

Online Update (- in toolbar) - use to open Paragon Last Minute Bidder product update page in new external browser window and check the last version of the program

Options (- in toolbar) - use to display/edit application settings

'Help' Menu

Help topics (F1), Index - use for finding information about working in Bidder

Enter registration code - use for registration professional version of Bidder

About bidder...(- in the Symbol panel) - use for displaying application information

Search Service

Last Minute Bidder uses the custom interface of eBay™ for searching articles and showing information. In this order Last Minute Bidder is equipped by an integrated browser window like Internet Explorer.

You can activate this browser window by clicking on the browser symbol in the dialog window "Main settings". After starting Last Minute Bidder the start page of eBay™ will be shown here.

You can find the required article in the following way:

- Click on the browser symbol to open the browser window.
- Find an article directly or use the eBay™ categories to find an article.
- Now eBay™ shows a list with all auctions for your search words or your category.
- By clicking on an auction listed, the appropriate properties of the auction will be shown.

Enter your favourite article in the program as follows:

- Click on the switch button in the symbol panel.
- Last Minute Bidder shows the present bid properties. Enter the maximal bidding value for the item in the field "maximal price". Under "Select auction folder" please specify the auction folder which you would like to use to contain the bid object.

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- Click OK. Last Minute Bidder shows the new bid in the chosen folder. As usual, the folder "Open auctions" can be chosen. You can see this folder if you click on the switch button "Bid status" in the dialog window "Main settings".

Bid Statuses

- Inactive
- Active
- Active, but maximum price is less than current
- Running
- Running, but maximum price is less than current
- Stopped
- Stopped, bids retracted
- Won
- Loose
- Private auction finished. If you win, seller will send confirmation

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